



CHESTERFIELD

Hampshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Chesterfield is a rural recreational hill town between Northampton and Pittsfield. The town was laid out in 1739 and sites were granted to King Philip's and King William's war veterans in 1740, but initial settlement of the town did not take place until around 1755. The town center was established after the Revolution with well preserved Federal Period houses along Main Road and landmarks of civic buildings in a later Greek Revival style.

In its early days, the town supported a largely agricultural economy, with wool from Merino sheep as a major product. However, there were sawmills and tanneries in operation as well as cloth dressing mills, and in the early 19th century these superseded farming and brought in a small immigrant population that was mostly Irish. Progress wiped out most of the industry in Chesterfield and by the turn of the century a re-emerging agricultural economy developed alongside the growing trade from summer residents.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Worthington on the west, Huntington and Westhampton on the south and southeast, Williamsburg on the east, Goshen on the northeast, and Cummington on the north. Chesterfield is 28 miles east of Pittsfield and 108 miles west of Boston.

Total Area: 31.29 sq. miles

Land Area: 31.10 sq. miles

Population: 1,048

Density: 34 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Cummington Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....19.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Goshen, Westhampton, Worthington, Chester

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 296-4771

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1762

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	639		
Democrats	96	15.0	%
Republicans	124	19.4	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	419	65.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic Information: (Population, persons by sex, age Distribution, race, household & income distrubution, poverty status, etc.)

[U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Housing Information: (Units, occupancy, value, structure type, year built, etc.) -
[U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Residential Building Permits (New single and multi family; monthly, YTD & historical) -
[U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Chesterfield is located between the Berkshires and the Pioneer Valley and has good access to both regions. Its roads and highways meet the needs of modern transportation.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 143, which connects up with the cross-state Worcester Turnpike (State Route 9) in the neighboring town of Williamsburg.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Chesterfield, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Chesterfield is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Williamsburg Council on Aging.

Other

The LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Northampton, has a 3,506'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Edwards Memorial Museum
North Street
(413) 296-4759

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.